

Strafford County

County Offices

Strafford County Commissioners
 259 County Farm Road Suite 204
 Dover NH 03820
 (603) 742-1458
<https://co.strafford.nh.us/>

County Services: Attorney's Office, Community Corrections, County Commissioners, Department of Corrections, Finance, Human Resources, Hyder Family Hospice House, IT Department, Registry of Deeds, Riverside Rest Home, Sherriff's Office

UNH Cooperative Extension
<https://extension.unh.edu/facility/strafford-county-office>



Strafford County is located on the eastern border of the state, south of center. A 45-mile stretch of the Salmon Falls River pouring into the Piscataqua River separates the county from Maine. It is the only county with three cities—Rochester, Dover, and Somersworth. It was one of the five original counties established in 1769, once encompassing all of Belknap County and the portion of Carroll County not in the White Mountain National Forest. The county was named for the Earl of Strafford, a title held by the Wentworth family in England, who were prominent in New Hampshire politics in colonial days. Dover, along with Rye, was one of the first places to be settled in New Hampshire.

Strafford County contains 367.3 square miles of land area, the smallest among the counties, and 15.3 square miles of inland water area. As of the 2020 Census, the population density was 356.2 persons per square mile. Strafford County includes three cities and ten towns. The county seat is Dover.

COUNTY POPULATION

2021	2010	2000	1990	1980
132,416	123,143	112,233	104,233	85,408

Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial/Annual Population Estimates

DEMOGRAPHICS

By Gender:		Male	Female
Total		64,397	66,201
18 years and over		52,018	54,599
65 years and over		8,850	11,023
Median Age		35.8 years	38.1 years
By Age Group:			
Under age 5			5,910
Age 5 to 19			25,731
Age 20 to 34			30,081
Age 35 to 54			31,187
Age 55 to 64			17,816
Age 65 and over			19,873
Median Age			37.0 years

Source: US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates 2017-2021

Due to differing methodologies, Annual Population Estimates and 5-Year Average ACS Demographics data may not match.

LABOR FORCE

Annual Average	2011	2021
Civilian Labor Force	69,660	72,806
Employed	65,934	70,416
Unemployed	3,726	2,390
Unemployment Rate	5.3%	3.3%

2021 Annual Average Unemployment Rates by Town

Barrington	2.9%	Milton	3.9%
Dover	3.3%	New Durham	3.1%
Durham	2.7%	Rochester	3.5%
Farmington	4.1%	Rollinsford	3.2%
Lee	2.4%	Somersworth	3.7%
Madbury	3.0%	Strafford	2.7%
Middleton	3.8%		

Source: NHES/ELMI

LARGEST BUSINESSES	COMMUNITY	PRODUCT/SERVICE	EMPLOYEES
University of New Hampshire	Durham	Education	3597
Wentworth-Douglass Hospital	Dover	Health care services	2435
Liberty Mutual	Dover	Insurance services	1911
Frisbie Memorial Hospital	Rochester	Health care services	1048
Lincoln Financial Group	Dover	Financial services	939
City of Rochester - Schools	Rochester	Education	821
Albany/SAFRAN Engineered Composites	Rochester	Aerospace engineered products	750
Strafford County	Dover	County government services	559
Dover Schools/SAU 11	Dover	Education	558
Market Basket - 2 locations	Rochester	Supermarket	450
Contitech	Somersworth	High performance silicone rubber hose	450
Turbocam USA	Barrington	Components for turbo-machinery operations	400
Aclara	Somersworth	Manufacturing, meter control division	400
City of Rochester	Rochester	Municipal services	387
Wal-Mart	Somersworth	Retail store	380
Community Partners	Dover	Counseling and mental health services	361
Somersworth School Department	Somersworth	Education	334
Wal-Mart Supercenter	Rochester	Retail store, supermarket	300
Market Basket	Somersworth	Supermarket	285
City of Dover	Dover	Municipal services	270
Hannaford Brothers - 2 locations	Rochester	Supermarket	264
Next Phase Medical (fka Phase 2 Medical)	Rochester	Medical device manufacturing	220
Velcro	Somersworth	Hook and loop products	199
Eastern Propane & Oil	Rochester	Retail propane and oil	178
Laars Technologies	Rochester	Boilers and water heaters	165
Index Packaging	Milton	Foam packaging	157
The Works Athletic Club	Somersworth	Physical fitness, wellness center	139
Town of Milton	Milton	Municipal services	132
Market Basket	Lee	Supermarket	120
General Linen	Somersworth	Laundry facility	120

Source: Employer data were provided by individual municipalities; not all municipalities provided data.

COVERED EMPLOYMENT & WAGES – ANNUAL AVERAGE			
	2011	2021	
Total, Private Industry plus Government			
Annual Average Employment	44,154	46,804	
Average Weekly Wage	\$880	\$1,140	
Total Private Industry			
Annual Average Employment	34,870	37,871	
Average Weekly Wage	\$868	\$1,133	
Private Goods-Producing Establishments			
Annual Average Employment	6,008	6,556	
Average Weekly Wage	\$1,099	\$1,259	
Private Service-Providing Establishments			
Annual Average Employment	28,863	31,316	
Average Weekly Wage	\$820	\$1,107	
Government (Federal, State, and Local)			
Annual Average Employment	9,284	8,933	
Average Weekly Wage	\$924	\$1,172	

Source: NHES/ELMI. 'n' = data do not meet disclosure standards. Data represent workers covered by unemployment insurance.

INCOME AND POVERTY	
Per Capita Income	\$38,942
Median Family Income	\$76,560
Median Household Income	\$100,210
Median Earnings (Full-Time Year-Round)	
Male	\$62,473
Female	\$51,257
Percent of individuals below the poverty level	9.2%
Persons under 18 years of age	7.8%
Persons 65 years of age or older	8.9%

Source: US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates 2017-2021

NEAREST HOSPITALS	STAFFED BEDS
Exeter Hospital, Exeter	99
Frisbie Memorial, Rochester	23
Huggins Hospital, Wolfeboro	25
Wentworth-Douglass, Dover	145

Source: NH Hospital Association

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Population, age 25 and over	86,389
Less than 9th grade	1,854
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	3,473
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	23,050
Some college, no degree	16,153
Associate's degree	9,995
Bachelor's degree	20,513
Graduate or professional degree	11,351

Percent of age 25 and over population:

High school graduate or higher	93.8%
With a Bachelor's degree or higher	36.9%

Source: US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year 2017-2021

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

School Districts Serving Strafford County Municipalities

- Barrington (grades K-8)
- Coe-Brown Academy, Northwood (grades 9-12)
- Dover (grades K-12)
- Eliot, Maine - Rollinsford students (grades 7-12)
- Farmington (grades K-12)
- Governor Wentworth Regional: Brookfield, Effingham, Middleton, New Durham, Ossipee, Tuftonboro, Wolfeboro (grades K-12)
- Middleton (grades K-6)
- Milton (grades K-12)
- Oyster River Cooperative: Durham, Lee, Madbury (grades K-12)
- Rochester (grades K-12)
- Rollinsford (grades K-6)
- Somersworth (grades K-12)
- Strafford (grades K--8)

Career Technology Centers

Dover Career Technical Center (Dover)
Lakes Region Technology Center (Wolfeboro)
Creteau Regional Technology Ctr (Rochester)
Somersworth Career Technical Center (Somersworth)

HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITIES

Nearest Community Colleges

Great Bay Community College (Portsmouth)
Lakes Region Community College (Laconia)
New Hampshire Technical Institute (Concord)

Nearest Colleges and Universities

University of New Hampshire (Durham)
Southern New Hampshire University (Manchester, online)

Source: NH Department of Education

NH LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTERS, 2021

Total Licensed Facilities	66
Total Capacity	3,877

Source: NH DHHS, Bureau of Child Care Licensing

COMMUTING TO WORK

Total Workers, 16 years and over	69,126
Car, truck or van: drove alone	51,963
Car, truck or van: carpooled	5,498
Public transportation (excluding taxi)	1,177
Walked	2,431
Other means	993
Worked at home	7,064
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	25.9

Percent of working residents who:

Work in county of residence	60.7%
Commute to some other NH county	29.3%
Commute out of the state or the country	10.0%

Source: US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates 2017-2021

TRANSPORTATION

Road Access	US Routes	4, 202
	State Routes	4, 9, 11, 16, 16A, 16B, 75, 108, 125, 126, 152, 153, 155, 155A, 202A, 236

Nearest Interstate/Exits

I-93, Exit 15 (Concord); I-95, Exit 5 (Portsmouth); I-95, Exit 2 (Kittery, Maine); Spaulding Turnpike Exits 6-9 (Dover), 12-16 (Rochester), 17, 18 (Milton)

Nearest Airport with Scheduled Service	Passenger Airlines
Manchester-Boston Regional	4
Portland International (Maine)	7
Portsmouth International	1

Source: Local mapping data

HOUSING UNITS

Total Housing Units	55,147
Single-Family Units, Detached or Attached	33,158
Units in Multiple-Family Structures:	
Two to Four Units in Structure	8,007
Five or More Units in Structure	9,158
Mobile Homes and Other Housing Units	4,824

Source: US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year 2017-2021

CURRENT HOUSING MARKET

New Hampshire Association of Realtors¹

YTD Dec 2022 Median Sale Price, Residential	\$400,000
YTD Dec 2022 Average Days on Market Until Sale	20

NHHFA Residential Rental Cost Survey²

2022 Median Monthly Gross Rent, 2 Bedroom	\$1,572
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Source: see footnotes

2021 LOCAL ASSESSED VALUATION BY PROPERTY TYPE

Property Type	Share of Total Valuation
Residential Land and Buildings	77.6%
Commercial Land and Buildings	19.3%
Public Utilities, Current Use, and Other	3.1%

Source: NH Department of Revenue Administration

PROPERTY TAX RATES, 2021

Town	Total Tax Rate per \$1000	Equalization Ratio	Full Value Rate per \$1000
Barrington	\$19.50	91.8	\$17.72
Dover	\$21.70	91.0	\$19.18
Durham	\$27.91	71.8	\$19.33
Farmington	\$23.37	75.1	\$17.11
Lee	\$21.77	96.6	\$20.73
Madbury	\$25.40	79.9	\$19.99
Middleton	\$27.46	60.1	\$16.26
Milton	\$22.86	68.0	\$15.37
New Durham	\$17.86	80.8	\$14.39
Rochester	\$24.65	73.5	\$17.31
Rollinsford	\$24.38	74.0	\$17.84
Somersworth	\$27.53	76.3	\$20.77
Strafford	\$18.46	90.9	\$16.75

Source: NH Department of Revenue Administration

¹ Source: NH Monthly Indicators – December 2022. Copyright 2022 New Hampshire Association of Realtors and Northern New England Real Estate Network, Inc. The reproduction of these statistics is done with the permission of NHAR and NNEREN. The statistics referenced herein are based solely upon listings submitted to the multiple listing service database of NNEREN and do not include all properties sold and marketed for sale. ALL INFORMATION DEEMED RELIABLE BUT NOT GUARANTEED. Any analysis or commentary related to these statistics is that of the commentator, and not that of NHAR or NNEREN. <www.nhar.org>

² Source: 2022 NH Residential Rental Cost Survey, New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority. Copyright NHHFA 2022. <www.nhfa.org>

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Strafford County Community Contacts

	Town of Barrington	Dover City Clerk's Office	Town of Durham
<i>address</i>	PO Box 660 Barrington NH 03825	288 Central Avenue Dover NH 03820-4169	8 Newmarket Road Durham NH 03824-2898
<i>phone</i>	603-664-9007	603-516-6012	603-868-8064
<i>email</i>	administration@barrington.nh.gov	s.mistretta@dover.nh.gov	mbehrendt@ci.durham.nh.us
<i>web site</i>	www.barrington.nh.gov	www.dover.nh.gov	www.ci.durham.nh.us
<i>office hours</i>	Selectboard: MTTh 8-5, W 8-6; Town Clerk: MTTh 8-5, W 1-6; Tax Collector: MTTh 8-3, W 12-5, closed F	City Hall: M-Th 8:30-5:30, F 8:30-4	Town Hall, Town Administrator: M-F 8-5; Town Clerk/Tax Collector: M-F 8-5, 1st M 8-6
	Town of Farmington	Town of Lee	Town of Madbury
<i>address</i>	356 Main Street, Municipal Offices Farmington NH 03835	249 Calef Highway Lee NH 03861	13 Town Hall Road Madbury NH
<i>phone</i>	603-755-3657	603-659-5414 x312	603-742-5131
<i>email</i>	rdickie@farmington.nh.us	townadministrator@leenh.org	tcmadbury@comcast.net
<i>web site</i>	www.farmington.nh.us	www.leenh.org	www.townofmadbury.com
<i>office hours</i>	Town Hall, Administrator: M-F 8-5; Town Clerk/Tax Collector: M-W 8:30-5, Th 8:30-7, F 8:30-12:30	Selectmen's Office: M 8-6, T-Th 8-4:30, F 8-12:30; Town Clerk/Tax Collector: M 8-6, WF 8-4	Town Hall, Town Clerk/Tax Collector: M 8-1 & 5-7, WTh 8-1
	Town of Middleton	Town of Milton	Town of New Durham
<i>address</i>	182 King's Highway Middleton NH 03887	PO Box 310 Milton NH 03851	4 Main Street, PO Box 207 New Durham NH 03855
<i>phone</i>	603-473-2261	603-652-4501 x1	603-859-2091
<i>email</i>	bos@middletonnh.gov	miltonta@miltonnh-us.com	ndadmin@newdurhamnh.us
<i>web site</i>	www.middletonnh.gov	www.miltonnh-us.com	www.newdurhamnh.us
<i>office hours</i>	Selectmen: M-Th 8-4; Town Clerk/Tax Collector: T 10-6, WTh 8-4	Town Hall: M-F 8-4; Town Clerk/Tax Collector: MTWF 8:30-4, Th 8:30-5	Town Hall, Town Clerk/Tax Collector: M-Th 8-4, last Th 8-6:30; Transfer Station: F-M 8-4:45
	Rochester Dept. of Economic Devel.	Town of Rollinsford	Somersworth Economic Development
<i>address</i>	31 Wakefield Street, City Hall Rochester NH 03867-1917	PO Box 309 Rollinsford NH 03869	One Government Way Somersworth NH 03878
<i>phone</i>	603-335-7522	603-742-2510	603-692-9519
<i>email</i>	michael.Scala@rochesternh.net	selectboard@rollinsford.nh.us	mmears@somersworthnh.gov
<i>web site</i>	www.rochesternh.net	www.rollinsford.nh.us	www.somersworth.com
<i>office hours</i>	City Hall, City Manager, City Clerk: M-F 8-5; Tax Collector: M-F 8-4:30	Town Clerk: MF 8-1, TTh 1-6; Tax Collector: M 9-1, TTh 3-7	City Hall: MTThF 8-4:30, W 8-6
	Town of Strafford		
<i>address</i>	12 Mountain View Drive Strafford NH 03884		
<i>phone</i>	603-664-2192		
<i>email</i>	administrator@strafford.nh.gov		
<i>web site</i>	www.strafford.nh.gov		
<i>office hours</i>	Selectmen: MTW 9-12; Town Clerk: MW 8:30-2, TTh 1-7; Tax Collector: MW 8:30-2, T 1-6		

Hours reviewed January 2023